

Currents

Published monthly for the customer-owners of Clark Public Utilities

JUNE 2018



WATCH FOR YOUR JUNE BILL CREDIT

Once again, the Clark Public Utilities board has approved a customer bill credit to return \$10 million in surplus revenue from 2017.

Eligible customers will see the credit, equal to about 29 percent of the average monthly energy use this winter, applied to the June bill. Please note that June bills are based on the date your meter is read and some "June" bills may be received in early July.

As a public utility, we are non-profit and our priority is always to provide the most reliable, affordable power with excellent customer service. Every year we set a conservative annual budget to make sure rates remain stable in case any variable affecting pricing increases dramatically throughout the year. When multiple variables act in favor of the utility, a surplus can result and the board of commissioners decides where those funds are allocated each year. Rates have not changed since 2011 and commissioners agreed these 2017 surplus funds should be allocated to customers in the form of a bill credit.

Recycle Appliances & Save



Before selling your old refrigerator or moving it to the garage, consider recycling it! If recycling it seems like a hassle, don't worry! We will arrange for a recycler to come pick up old refrigerators and freezers (must still be in working order) for free. Give us a call at 360-992-3000 and we will note the account and have the recycler call to arrange a pick up time.

LIGHT LINES

See us at Summer Events

Employee volunteers will be out in the community all summer at events including the 4th of July Celebration at Fort Vancouver, Camas Days, La Center Our Days, Battle Ground Harvest Days, concerts in the park at Esther Short and Columbia Tech Center, and more. Look for the Clark Public Utilities tent to talk with us about current programs and enjoy free fun and educational activities for the whole family.



CONTACT US

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REPORT POWER OUTAGES

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Water Wisely

With temperatures on the rise, water usage tends to follow suit. If you want to keep your yard looking spiffy, we've got some tips on how to do it in a cost effective and energy efficient way. Save some extra dollars with these water conservation reminders:



Use a sprinkler with a low application rate that does not flood your lawn. Most lawns only require an inch of water a week. Water lawns and gardens in the early morning or evening when it's cool, which will help avoid evaporation. Try not to let the water spray on sidewalks or driveways.

- If the forecast calls for rain, turn off automatic timers on sprinklers. Watering lawns and gardens on rainy days not only runs up your water bill unnecessarily, but it could over-saturate the soil.
- Add compost to flower beds. It will help the soil retain moisture and minimize the need to water as often.
- Use native plants in your landscaping. They require less care, and many don't require supplemental watering once they are established.

For more water conservation tips, please visit our website or call our water utility at 360-992-8022.

Find Us on Facebook and Nextdoor



If you're one of the thousands of Facebook users in Clark County, check out our page for updates about utility news, incentive programs, ways to outsmart energy waste and lower your bill each season, and a variety of community events and services from tree plantings to recycling events. Join in the conversation! Do you have questions about what we're up to? Ask! Discovered a great way to reduce wasted energy or use water wisely this summer? Please share! Keep up on the latest from your local utility at: www.facebook.com/ClarkPublicUtilities. You can also find us on Nextdoor, a social media platform similar to Facebook but specific to neighborhoods. We share information on power outage preparedness, electrical safety, upcoming utility events and provide large-scale emergency notifications when necessary.

Please note that Facebook or Nextdoor is not the appropriate way to report power outages or request service. To report outages, please continue to use our online outage reporting system or call 360-992-8000. We are available 24 hour a day, every day of the year. And happy to help.

Stay Cool and Safe this Summer

The heat is here and there are plenty of ways to help cool your home safely and affordably.

- Clean your cooling system filters and schedule a tune up for your heat pump or air conditioner to make sure it's working as efficiently as possible.
- Keep doors and windows closed during the hottest part of the day and open them in the cooler mornings and evenings. Remember that screens aren't strong enough to prevent falls or intruders so be sure to secure open windows and be safe.
- Avoid using heat-producing appliances like ovens or clothes dryers on hot days and try grilling outdoors or using the microwave instead.

For weatherization upgrades or HVAC replacements, check out current utility rebates and incentives on our website or call an energy counselor during business hours at 360-992-3355.

